

The attorney to pay costs in certain cases, &c.

trial the judgment be against such petitioner or petitioners, the attorney prosecuting or appearing to the same shall pay all legal costs arising thereon, unless the court, before whom the same may be brought, shall be of opinion, under all circumstances, that there was probable ground to suppose the said petitioner or petitioners had a right to freedom; and that in all cases of petitions for freedom now depending in any court of law in this state, except on appeal, where a similar petition or petitions, at the suit of the same party or parties, has or have been before filed and dismissed, the court before whom such petition or petitions are depending shall order a stay of all proceedings until the costs of the former petition or petitions, and all reasonable demands and expenses, sustained or incurred by the defendant or defendants therein, to be ascertained by the court, shall have been paid or secured to be paid.

If not paid, defendant to be discharged, &c.

SEC. 26. *And be it enacted*, That in case the said costs, damages and expenses, shall not be paid within six months after the court shall have ordered a stay of proceedings, and ascertained the said damages and expenses as aforesaid, the defendant or defendants in such petition or petitions, so as aforesaid depending, and his, her or their securities, shall be discharged from any recognizance by him, her or them, entered into, in consequence of such petition or petitions being filed, and the said petition shall be forthwith dismissed.

Court may order a stay &c.

SEC. 27. *And be it enacted*, That if any petition for freedom shall hereafter be filed in any court of law in this state, and dismissed, and a second petition filed at the suit of the same party, the court in which such second petition may be filed shall order a stay of all proceedings until the costs of the former petition, and all reasonable damages and expenses sustained or incurred by the defendant or defendants therein, to be ascertained by the court, shall have been paid or secured to be paid.

Act to be given in charge, &c.

SEC. 28. *And be it enacted*, That it shall be the duty of the several county courts of this state to give this act in charge to the several grand juries of their respective counties.

Healthy slaves may be manumitted, &c.

SEC. 29. *And be it enacted*, That where any person or persons possessed of any slave or slaves within this state, who are or shall be of healthy constitutions, and sound in mind and body, capable by labour to procure to him or them sufficient food and raiment, with other requisite necessaries of life, and not exceeding forty five years of age, and such person or persons possessing such slave or slaves as aforesaid, and being willing and desirous to set free or manumit such slave or slaves, may, by writing under his, her or their hand and seal, evidenced by two good and sufficient witnesses at least, grant to such slave or slaves his, her or their freedom; and that any deed or writing, whereby freedom shall be given or granted to any such slave,